

Message Text

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PARIS FOR UNESCO US REP AMB TORRES FROM AMBASSADOR

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SUBJECT: VISIT OF UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW TO NEPAL

REF: KATHMANDU 2875 (NOTAL), PARIS 18602

1. UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW SPENT JUNE 15-18 IN KATHMANDU AS GUEST OF GON ON OFFICIAL VISIT WHICH BY ALL ACCOUNTS WAS SUCCESSFUL. NEPALESE LEADERS INTRODUCED M'BOW TO NEPALESE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS AND HE REPORTEDLY WENT AWAY IMPRESSED. VISIT ALSO LAID GROUNDWORK FOR MORE INTENSIFIED UNESCO SUPPORT FOR NEPAL, AND FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP IN PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF NEPAL'S MANY RELIGIOUS AND ARTISTIC MONUMENTS.

2. GON WHICH IS CURRENTLY MEMBER OF UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD PREPARED COMPREHENSIVE SCHEDULE FOR M'BOW WHICH INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH KING AND PRIME MINISTER, HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LITERATURE, HELICOPTER TOUR OF CENTRAL REGION OF NEPAL WHICH TOOK IN LUMBINI, BIRTHPLACE OF BUDDHA, AND SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH RANKING GON OFFICIALS LED BY EDUCATION MINISTER PASHUPATI RANA.
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LATTER IS EXPECTED TO HEAD NEPALESE DELEGATION TO UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE IN PARIS NEXT OCTOBER.

3. ON EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE, M'BOW HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH AIDE-MEMOIRE SUMMARIZING RESULTS OF VISIT WAS RELEASED. KEY POINTS IN AIDE-MEMOIRE WERE:
A) M'BOW REASSURANCE TO GON THAT NEPAL WOULD BE SITE

OF REGIONAL CENTER FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT IN MOUNTAINOUS AREAS INCLUDING UTILIZATION OF WATER RESOURCES. DECISION TO ESTABLISH SUCH A CENTER IN THIS PART OF WORLD WAS TAKEN AT LAST GENERAL CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI.

B) UNESCO PLEDGE TO GENERATE SUPPORT FOR MASTER PLAN FOR CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN KATHMANDU VALLEY. MASTER PLAN IS DOCUMENT JOINTLY PREPARED BY UNESCO AND UNDP, AND ISSUED IN PARIS IN 1977. AS TITLE INDICATES, IT SETS FORTH COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK AND GUIDELINES TO PROTECT, PRESERVE AND RESTORE MYRIAD OF NEPALESE MONUMENTS IN KATHMANDU VALLEY.

C) UNESCO AGREEMENT TO INITIATE OR SUPPORT NEPALESE EFFORT AT OCTOBER CONFERENCE TO ASSIGN TO CULTURAL WEALTH OF KATHMANDU VALLEY, SAME PRIORITY AND IMPORTANCE AS CURRENTLY ACCORDED TO ACROPOLIS, VENICE, NUBIA, BOROBODUR, ETC.

D) UNESCO CONTRIBUTION OF \$50,000 TO CONTINUE RESTORATION WORK ON HANUMAN DHOKA PALACE IN KATHMANDU AND ON OTHER MONUMENTS.

4. AT PRESS CONFERENCE M'BOW ALSO COMMENDED NEPAL FOR ITS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME WHICH LINKS GON'S DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORT IN RURAL AREAS WITH EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND REQUIRES GRADUATE STUDENTS TO SPEND TEN MONTHS IN SELECTED REMOTE AREAS AS PART OF THEIR DEGREE REQUIREMENT. M'BOW SAID HE FELT THIS IMAGINATIVE

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SCHEME WAS WORTH EMULATION IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA.

5. M'BOW'S VISIT ALSO PROMPTED GON TO TAKE HARD LOOK AT ITS OWN EFFORTS IN THIS AREA WHICH TO DATE HAVE LANGUISHED. ON THIS OCCASION GON SIGNED CONVENTION FOR PROTECTION OF WORLD CULTURAL AND NATIONAL HERITAGE REPORTEDLY BECOMING THIRTY-SEVENTH COUNTRY TO ADHERE. OTHER ACTIONS INCLUDED APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE IMPLEMENTATION OF MASTER PLAN AND PREPARATION OF STATEMENT BELATEDLY LISTING STEPS WHICH GON HAS ALREADY TAKEN IN SUPPORT OF MASTER PLAN SUCH AS:

A) ZONING ORDINANCES TO CONTROL BUILDING ACTIVITY AROUND ANCIENT MONUMENTS;

B) BUILDING CODES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PRIVATE HOUSES; AND

C) FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS - GON BUDGET INCLUDES FUNDS FOR RESTORATION WORK AND FOR LOCAL COSTS OF VARIOUS PROJECTS MANAGED BY FOREIGN DONORS. IN ADDITION, CHARITABLE AND RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS SUCH AS GUTHI SANSTHAN, TRADITIONALLY MAINTAIN AND REPAIR TEMPLES IN KATHMANDU VALLEY.

6. NET RESULT OF VISIT WAS TO STRENGTHEN NEPAL'S

TIES WITH UNESCO AND VICE VERSA, GENERATE ADDITIONAL
UNESCO SUPPORT FOR CULTURAL PROJECTS IN KATHMANDU
VALLEY AND FOCUS NEPALESE ATTENTION ON MASTER PLAN
AND ON CRITICAL NEED FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO CARRY IT OUT.

FOR NEA/INS - PLEASE PASS TO PERROT AND BROWN-MORTON.
HECK

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